

## **Andrea Büttner at the MMK Zollamt**

The MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst is now presenting the first solo exhibition on the artist Andrea Büttner (b. 1972) to take place in a museum. For the MMK Zollamt, the Documenta 13 participant designed a multi-media room installation of which the central element is a twenty-metre-long table.

The motif of the table set for a meal is reminiscent of refectories, canteens and soup kitchens such as the “Pranzo di Natale” at Santa Maria di Trastevere in Rome. Here, however, it is not to be understood merely as a dining table, but also as vehicle of imagery and information. The artist uses it accordingly as a display by carefully arranging selected photographs and texts on it. Among other things, traditional conceptions of “poor” and “rich” are renegotiated and conditions of artistic production are addressed by these objects.

In the process, Andrea Büttner’s interest is directed towards the so-called “little works” - small and initially unremarkable artworks. A glass case presents pebbles painted by various artists, among them a recast of a pebble sculpture executed by Kurt Schwitters while in exile in 1944/47. The political potential of its execution is not dealt with explicitly but lies concealed behind its simple form and design.

“Andrea Büttner, whose work I hold in high regard, pursues a conceptual approach in the tradition of such artists as Martin Kippenberger or Rosemarie Trockel. Through her precise choice of materials and special way of presenting her works on the long table, she deliberately creates interfaces between social issues and art-historical discourses”, comments MMK director Dr Susanne Gaensheimer.

A chief aspect of the exhibition will be an evening dinner with lectures to take place in the form of a symposium. For this occasion, Andrea Büttner has invited the artist and food activist Pentecost to design a thematic menu revolving around conceptions of “poor” and “rich” and referencing the art-historical significance of 1960s “Eat Art”. The speakers of the evening – media theorist and philosopher Franco Bifo Berardi, literary scholar Liliane Weissberg, Documenta 13 artistic director Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev and artist Lise Soskolne from W.A.G.E. (Working Artists and the Greater Economy), will pick up these thematic threads and spin them further. Their dinner speeches about money and poetry, conceptions of poverty in Judaism and Christianity, the remuneration of artistic work and food distribution conflicts will subsequently be incorporated into the exhibition as a sound installation. The dinner will be part of a series of events carried out in cooperation with the Frankfurt Jüdisches Museum in conjunction with its show “Juden. Geld. Eine Vorstellung”.

The room installation at the MMK Zollamt also encompasses prints by Andrea Büttner as well as her video work *Minerva* developed in Texas in 2011. The title not only corresponds to the real name of the protagonist, an American supermarket cashier, but also alludes to the Roman goddess of trade. The artist moreover executed two new "fabric paintings" especially for the show. Like the cloth pictures she presented at the Documenta 13, they are made of fabric manufactured for work uniforms. With their robust materiality and the specific blue colouration, the artist links a socio-historical context with the art-historical discourse on monochrome painting.

In keeping with the artist's wishes, admission to the MMK Zollamt will be free for the duration of the exhibition.

The exhibition is being accompanied by a limited edition:

Andrea Büttner, *Santa Maria in Trastevere*, 2010/2013, serigraph, 49.4 x 35.4 cm

Edition: 25, price 450 EUR

A catalogue containing contributions by Lars Bang Larsen, Chus Martinez and Richard Birkett, as well as a conversation between Andrea Büttner, Nikolaus Hirsch and Hans Ulrich Obrist is being published jointly by the Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König of Cologne and the MK Gallery, Milton Keynes, England (forthcoming in April 2013, 320 pages, price: 29.80 EUR).

Realized with support from the Jürgen Ponto-Stiftung zur Förderung junger Künstler and the Kooperationspool der Stadt Frankfurt am Main

**We cordially invite you to attend the opening on Friday, 15 February at 7 pm. The artist will be present.**

Press photos:

Press photos are available for downloading on our Internet site at [www.mmk-frankfurt.de/de/presse/pressebilder](http://www.mmk-frankfurt.de/de/presse/pressebilder)

**Press department:**

Christina Henneke

Telephone +49 69 21237761

Daniela Denninger

Telephone +49 69 21235844

Julia Haecker

Telephone +49 69 21240571

Fax +49 69 21237882

[presse.mmk@stadt-frankfurt.de](mailto:presse.mmk@stadt-frankfurt.de)